

## PINYIN CONVERSION SPECIFICATIONS

### CONVERSION SEQUENCE G2: Two-syllable place names, in which the second syllable is a generic term

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\*AY\* -- ayn, alif or apostrophe in Wade-Giles; apostrophe in pinyin

\*U\* - the letter u with umlaut

#### 1 Background

- 1.1 Two-syllable place names are hyphenated in Wade-Giles form, with the second syllable (the generic term) beginning with a lower case letter. In pinyin, the two syllables are separated, with the second syllable being capitalized (as is the first one). For example, Ying-hsien (Qualifier) converts to Ying Xian (Qualifier).

Almost all of the 2-syllable place names are the names of counties (hsien). Other generic terms are used as part of 2-syllable place names much less frequently. Identifying these terms in access points should be less problematic than picking them out of the descriptive portion of the bibliographic record, especially the 245 field.

In Wade-Giles romanization, these terms are attached single-syllable place names with hyphens. In this form, they can be confused with syllables that are parts of personal names. So while Chung-shan can represent Bell Mountain, it is also Sun Yat-sen's courtesy name. As with the capitalization of generic terms in G1, instructing a computer program to consider all hyphenated generic terms to represent generic terms for jurisdictions would lead to conversion errors. Although these terms can usually be identified by context in strings of romanized descriptive text, it is unlikely that a conversion rule could be written to convert all possible occurrences correctly.

Therefore, the procedures for conversion of 2-syllable place names will also be applied in access points for corporate bodies, but not in strings of uncontrolled text (such as titles and notes).

#### 2 Instructions

- 2.1 Convert the generic term and the syllable that precedes it:

- 2.1.1 Remove the hyphen and replace it with a space;

- 2.1.2 Convert the syllables, using the standard conversion table;
- 2.1.3 Change first letter of second syllable from lower case to upper case;
- 3 Consider these WG syllables as potential generic terms:  
     hsien  
     sheng  
     shih
- 4 Examples
- Chi-hsien converts to Ji Xian  
 Ling-hsien converts to Ling Xian

### **EXAMPLES OF APPLICATION OF CONVERSION SEQUENCES G1, G2 AND G3**

The examples above were selected because they contained the conditions appropriate for the activation of each particular conversion sequence. They show, not the result of one particular conversion sequence, but the result of the entire conversion process. What follows are examples of each of the steps being applied to a Chinese place name:

#### **EXAMPLE 1:**

Kuo-lo Tsang tsu tzu chih chou (China)

G3 (multi-syllabic term; tsu) Kuo-lo Zangzu Zizhizhou (China)

G2 (do not use)

G1 (capitalization) (no change)

STD Guoluo Zangzu Zizhizhou (China)

#### **EXAMPLE 2:**

Wan-hsien chuan ch\*AY\*\*U\* (China)

G3 (multi-syllabic term; tsu) Wan-hsien Zhuanqu (China)

G2 (do not use)

G1 (capitalization) (no change)

STD Wanxian Zhuanqu (China)

#### **EXAMPLE 3:**

Lu-ch\*AY\*\*U\*an I tsu Miao tsu tzu chih hsien

G3 (multi-syllabic term; tsu) Lu-ch\*AY\*\*U\*an Yizu Miao zu Zizhixian (China)

G2 (do not use)

G1 (capitalization) (no change)

STD Luquan Yizu Miao zu Zizhixian (China)

EXAMPLE 4:

Ling-hsien (China)

G3 (multi-syllabic term; tsu) (do not use)

G2 Ling Xian (China)

G1 (no change)

STD (no change)

EXAMPLE 5:

Fang-shan hsien (China)

G3 (multi-syllabic term; tsu) (do not use)

G2 (do not use)

G1 Fangshan Xian (China)

STD (no change)